

Spring 2016 Gospel Meeting  
"Evangelism"

"WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

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- 1. Jesus commands His believers to go into the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
- 2. In our evangelistic efforts we will encounter some who will not believe the good news of Jesus Christ.
- 3. The apostle Paul remarked that not all who heard the gospel believed and obeyed, **Romans 10:16**
- 4. Why will some reject the gospel? What are we to do in such instances?

I. THOSE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD

- A. The people would not believe in the Old Testament times
  - 1. Peter reveals none believed Noah, **1 Peter 3:18-20; 2 Peter 2:5**
  - 2. Israelites perished in the wilderness for their unbelief, **Hebrews 3:16-4:2; Jude 5; Psalms 106:24-25 (Psalms 77:21-22)**

I. THOSE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD

- B. The people would not believe in the early New Testament times
  - 1. The elders and chief priests did not believe John the Baptist, **Matthew 21:32 (Matthew 21:23-25)**
  - 2. Many people did not believe the words of Jesus, **Mark 6:1-6, John 6:60-64, 8:45-47. 10:24-26 (Matthew 27:38-42)**
  - 3. The apostles encountered unbelief in their spreading of the gospel, **Acts 13:44-46, 28:24 (Romans 10:16)**

II. WHY DO PEOPLE NOT BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD?

- A. Some have already decided they won't believe, **Psalms 14:1; 53:1**
  - 1. No matter how much evidence one presents, they will simply reject it, **John 12:37-38 (Luke 16:27-31)**
  - 2. They have hardened their heart so they can't believe, **John 12:39-40 (Hebrews 3:16-4:2)**
  - 3. The influence of the devil causes them to disbelieve, **Luke 8:12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

II. WHY DO PEOPLE NOT BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD?

- B. Some refuse to listen, **Isaiah 30:9; Jeremiah 6:10, 17; 7:25-27; 13:10; Zechariah 7:12**
  - – The truth is unpleasant to them, **Isaiah 30:10; Acts 7:54-57; 2 Timothy 4:3**
- C. The gospel does not accord with human wisdom, **1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 2:1-6**
  - – Man's pride does not let him acknowledge God, **Psalms 10:4; Romans 1:21-22, 25**

## II. WHY DO PEOPLE NOT BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD?

- D. Men take pleasure in wickedness, **2 Thessalonians 2:14 (2 Timothy 3:2-4)**
  - – The gospel exposes their evil deeds, **John 3:19-20**
- E. It means there is an **Objective Standard of Truth** to which one is obligated
  - – Jesus is definite, absolute truth, **John. 14:6 (1:1, 14); Ephesians 4:20-21**

## III. HOW SHOULD WE HANDLE SUCH CASES?

- A. Preach the word regardless, **2 Timothy 4:1-4**
  - 1. We are called to preach the gospel to all nations, **Mark 16:15**
  - 2. Jesus and the disciples never pre-judged who and who would not believe
    - - They went everywhere preaching to everyone, **Mark 1:35-39, 45; Luke 8:1; 9:1-2, 6; Acts 8:4, 25, 40**

## III. HOW SHOULD WE HANDLE SUCH CASES?

- B. There may come a time when we must turn from those who reject the gospel
  - 1. All we can do is plant the seed, the word of God, **Luke 8:12-15; (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:6)**
  - 2. Jesus warned about casting what is precious before the unclean, **Matthew 7:6**

## III. HOW SHOULD WE HANDLE SUCH CASES?

- 3. In sending the twelve out, they were to leave towns that would not listen to the gospel, **Matthew 10:14-15**
  - – Shaking of the dust off the feet would be a testimony against them, **Mark 6:11; Luke 9:5**
- 4. The apostle Paul shook the dust off his feet and clothes at Pisidia, Antioch, and Corinth, **Acts 15:49-51; Acts 18:5-6**
  - – Those who would not listen to the gospel judged themselves unworthy of eternal life, **Acts 15:45-46**

## CONCLUSION

- 1. We must proclaim the gospel to all nations, **Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15**
- 2. Some will believe and obey others will not.
- 3. We should make every attempt to reach the lost, putting in an earnest effort to persuade men to repent and come to Christ
- 4. However if they reject God's word, we are innocent of their blood; they have judged themselves unworthy of eternal life and will have to answer to Christ, **Acts 15:49; 18:6; 20:26-27**